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WORKS IN PROGRESS

KEN GRIFFIS, Executive Vice President of the Friends of the JEMF, is working on the history of the Sons of the Pioneers. He has already spoken with Tim Spencer, Lloyd Perryman, Ken Curtis, and Hugh Farr, and hopes to complete his interviews soon. In addition, Ken has interviewed several other cowboy and country-western performers, including Ken Maynard, the original singing cowboy in Western movies; and Ray Whitley, organizer of the 6-bar Cowboys featured on radio and in movies in the late '30's and '40's. Interviews with other artists, such as Rome Johnson and Roy Lanham, are scheduled.

JUDITH McCULLOH is writing her doctoral dissertation (in folklore at Indiana University) on a family of lyric folksongs, the most common titles for which are "In the Pines," "The Longest Train (I Ever Saw)," "900 (or 500) Miles," "Reuben," "Reuben's Train," "Train 45," "Georgia Buck," "Joe Brown's Coal Mine." Folklorists working with lyric folksongs have generally organized and discussed them in terms of their textual symbolism and imagery. But these textual units and images often "float" unpredictably from one song to another, until it becomes difficult to say whether or not one lyric folksong is the "same" as another. In an effort to learn whether the tunes for these traditional lyrics might provide a better clue to their identity and relations, the present study was undertaken. References to obscure or scarce recordings will be gratefully received and acknowledged. (Send to Mrs. Judith McCulloh, 403 West Oregon St., Urbana, Illinois, 61801.)